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Interviewer: Josh, Alondra, Vanessa

Date: 24 October 2016

Location: MiraCosta library

1:00-16:03

Joshua: Alright, so can you tell me who you are

Rachel: Yes. I'm Rachel and I was in the Marine Corp.

Joshua: Alright. So, you're in the Marine Corp. Why did you join the marines? Or what was your motivation to join?

Rachel: Um, I've always had a strong interest in History, specifically American History, and our military history. Um, and I've always kind of had a feeling of wanting to serve in some way.

Joshua: Alright. So, what were your expectations of the Military life?

Rachel: Um, definitely gained discipline and some skills that I can use in the real world. I guess that's pretty much it, I was kind of going off the idea of what I had seen in movies. Um, that's about it.

Joshua: So for your training, what did you do?

Rachel: Um, so we have boot camp first, which is just basic training of learning how to be a marine. Doing everything from marching to how to properly address people, rank, structure, that kind of thing and that's for three months. After that you go to a combat training for a month, which is more specific combat tactics and then after that you go to your schoolhouse where you learn your specific job skills set and mine was for three months.

Joshua: Cool. So when you were going through all the training and learning for being a soldier, did your outlook on schooling change at all?

Rachel: Uh, I don't think my outlook on school changed. I had been out of High School for about two years when I went into the Marine Corp and went into our schoolhouse. So it was a little bit different than the traditional schooling I was used to. Uh, we did more practicing is what we would do in our actual job. So I'm not really sure if my idea of it changed so much, it was just a different type of schooling.

Joshua: Cool. Alright, so which MSO did you get?

Rachel: So mine, I was fortunate in getting Intelligence Specialist which was really great because if something with the skills I learned there I could use in the real world and they've helped me within my actual schooling now here at Mira Costa. So, I'm very glad that I got that one, because it wasn't something that some infantry guys are specifically only trained for that and you can't really use that in the real world. So, pretty proud to get that.

Joshua: So, did you chose to become an Intelligent Specialist? Or were you picked?

Rachel: So, the way with the Marine Corp you get to put a list together of things that you would like to have that's available. You take the ASVAB, and depending on how well you score on that is how you get placed into certain MOS's. If there is the availability of a couple, you might be able to pick. I actually was originally was supposed to be an Administrative Specialist and basically just office work -filing and that kind of thing- um but then the Intelligence one opened up and there was only one spot for one female from my area, so I snagged that one right away.

Joshua: Alright. So, did you do any special trainings after picking that area?

Rachel: So, depending on the MOS you get, so everyone has their own specific training they have to go to. Um, and so mine was after boot camp and the basic combat training. Then I went to Virginia for three months for mine.

Joshua: Okay, and then so what were your main roles as an Intelligence Specialist?

Rachel: Um, for mine specifically because it does depend on what unit you go to, or what kind of tasks they need you to do. The biggest thing was creating research, and creating reports to brief our unit on. Um, and then you would take certain things that, for me I worked on the Air side which were certain things pilots would achieve, I would use to create other reports and then also a big part of my job was to track security plants within the unit to make sure that everyone was where they needed to be.

Joshua: So, you said that you were able to do things that helped you now?

Rachel: How did training and the marine Corp help me with school here?

Joshua: Yeah.

Rachel: So like I said, with the briefing and research part um that was a huge help for here. It helps me, 1: to have the communication skills within the classes like if there are presentations, researching was a huge help because like with all classes we have papers we need to research on and that helped tremendously with giving me the ability to pump out some good papers.

Joshua: So then, after all your training were you ever deployed?

Rachel: I was. I deployed twice to Afghanistan.

Joshua: And then, just for curiosity sake, how long is the deployment?

Rachel: Um, so they can vary depending on the branch you are in, the job you have, the time frame. Both of mine were around 6 months.

Joshua: Okay. So then, when you were deployed what was a normal day like for you?

Rachel: Um, so a normal day, 12 hour shift minimum, there may be days where you had to stay longer. Um, so you do that and then usually for me I would go work out and then I'd go home, shower, maybe watch half a movie. Then you'd wake up and do the whole thing all over again, everyday until we left.

Joshua: Alright, so basically outside your shifts you just did kind of normal things.

Rachel: Kind of, there's really not much normal things to do than watch movies on your computer and go to the gym. There's not really much any other place to go.

Joshua: So, you had computers, did you have any other type of technology? Like phones or other stuff?

Rachel: Yeah, yeah we had phones. Can't really say we used them often unless you needed to contact another unit. Computer was the main source and mainly because doing all the research and taking all the reports and creating Intelligence breecings.

Joshua: So, you've told us before that when you moved back to the states you still worked with Intelligence. How is that different than working on the battlefield?

Rachel: So, yeah, still same thing but when you're state side its more preparation for when you do go, so most scenarios we come up with are basically fake ones to help us get ready, and when you're deployed you're reading reports that are actually going on, real operations, so it's all real world and not just practice. You're a part of it, and it was more interesting.

Joshua: How did your life in the military go upon your discipline, like in the real world?

Rachel: So it definitely helped, when you're in any branch there's constantly someone on you telling you when you need to be there, why you need to be there, how you have to be

there, you know. Everything is pretty much designated out so you have to be on it. I learned over time that I had to take that indicative to be self-disciplined like here at school, because you have homework and things that need to get done. It definitely helped with my schooling since when you're getting trained to be disciplined because they're telling you, but once you get that down you use it in your everyday life.

Joshua: So then, after you left the military how was the transition from military life to civilian life?

Rachel: Honestly, that transition was a little bit harder than I thought to was going to be. I figured there would be some adjustment time, but I didn't realize how depressing it could be. You go from living in the barracks with people you work with constantly, you deploy with and are around all the time. Sometimes you can't stand each other like you're siblings. But for the most part you're there for each other, so when you get out it kind of becomes a lot lonelier. People usually move back home, but I stayed here. It wasn't something I was used to. I went from active duty to schooling. It takes a while from being one person into going into another person. It could be a rocky transition for most people.

Joshua: Yeah.

Vanessa: How long did it take you to get used to that?

Rachel: That's a good question. Um, I would say almost a full year to get with all the different transitions. It's hard to put into words, but it's a whole different lifestyle so it definitely takes a while. Getting into schooling was a lot easier to get into.

Joshua: Alright so, coming back to school was that in your mind during your service, or once you left?

Rachel: Yeah, I actually tried to go take classes while I was in- Twice- that didn't work out because at the time the first one they cut funding for the tuitions program they had so I was unable to which was fine because I didn't end up having time. Then the second time too much stuff came up and I didn't have enough time between the military and schooling. So, um I've always wanted to and I knew I needed to go back to school because a lot of jobs now require at least a Bachelors, even if I wanted to stay with Intelligence but you for sure need a bachelors to stay within that career field. Three months before I was getting out and knew I wasn't going to be re-enlisting so I went ahead and made time for school because the job market for my job and my skill set wouldn't really provide anything since I needed that degree.

Joshua: Alright so, was there a reason you didn't re-enlist or did it just happen?

Rachel: Sometimes I actually do wish I did re-enlist um, when it came time to choosing I was at the time going through a divorce so I had a lot going on, and wasn't 100% sure what I wanted to do. When you go to re-enlist there is a certain time frame you need to do it in, and I didn't do it because I had so much stuff going on and my mind was kind of elsewhere. So that kind of passed me by, and before I knew it I knew I needed to make plans for sure for getting out, and that's why I started with school.

Joshua: Alright, so once you came to school did you immediately start here at Mira Costa, or did you go somewhere else first?

Rachel: Nope, I started here at Mira Costa since I came from Camp Pendleton, so it was right here and I used to live down the street between here and Palomar that I wanted to go to.

Joshua: So, do you remember what your first day was like?

Rachel: I do actually, my very first class was a Geology class. I was really nervous because I kind of had flashbacks to High School where I wasn't the greatest student, um and I kind of envisioned college as being just out of my league and I was so nervous. I remember it took me a good extra ten minutes just to get into the class because I had no idea what to expect, and with all the changes going on I was really nervous. But once I got in there I saw that I had a great professor, it was more relaxed than I thought it would be and not as hard as it was going to be. Um, so that kind of nervousness went away quickly.

Joshua: That's good. Alright so, when you're an Intelligence Specialist and you're moving up or going up in the order, how does that compare to your schooling now as a student?

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Rachel: I'm not really sure if moving up in rank really compares to schooling, just because everyone is kind of on their own personal path here, you're just kind of taking the classes you need. Maybe if you have like certain math you have to take in your level, but even so, when you're in the marine corps and you're picking a rank, you're picking up more responsibility, whereas in school, it's not that you're really picking up any extra responsibility with each year your here, you're just getting closer to a degree. So I don't know if it really compares, I think job wise, like the current job that I'm at, it's kind of comparable there, you know, as you've been there longer, you can leave the people that you're with, so I wouldn't really say that it's comparable necessarily.

Josh: Okay

Vanessa: Which one do you think you prefer, the more structured way of the military, or the more openness here?

Rachel: A mix. I would say a mix. Especially when it comes to like work. You definitely need a structure but not too structured. In the military it makes sense, you're going to go, you know, if you're getting deployed and such, you need some kind of structure like that. Schooling I think whenever you're in a learning environment, it really should be somewhat catered to the individual, cause everyone learns different. Some people might need more discipline, more structure telling them like 'hey do this class and this and do this homework now, make sure you are scheduling this' but for other people it's better if they create their own plans for the path that they're taking to their goal. I think` it just depends on the situation that you're talking with as far as structured over not structured.

Josh: With your schooling in the military, how is it different from schooling here?

Rachel: Well, I guess the only that's the same is that you're learning something. With the military it's part of the military, you know you're very structured there, you have instructors who you not only do you see in the classroom, but they're PTing you in the morning before class, they are doing inspections on your rooms, you're uniforms, they basically, anytime you're in the military, your life is basically owned, for lack of better terms, by those in charge of you, you mess up and they can take everything away from you, if, so be it. Whereas school here, you know, it's all on me, you know. I'm learning stuff just like I did there, but it was definitely different kinds of learning, the learning there was the skills that I was going to go and use right away, whereas here, I'm learning different subjects but not necessarily things that whenever I get into a career are specifically task oriented of what I'm going to need to know how to do.

Josh: So, the consequences between the two are a lot different then?

Rachel: Um, when you mean consequences, what do you mean?

Josh: Like, when you mess up or do something wrong.

Rachel: Oh, for sure. Um, I mean, here, if you mess up if you're not doing your homework, if you're not studying for tests, it's going to ruin your GPA, which can have you know, long term effect whereas you're going to get to transfer to, and ultimately maybe what career you get into. I mean, they do have some disciplinary things here at the school where you can get kicked off campus basically if you're harassing people, stuff like that. At the schoolhouse, yeah, if you, I remember a couple times as a class, we collectively did not do well on a test, and because we didn't do well on a test we all lost our privileges to go out during the weekends, we had to stay in our rooms, and if we did go to the store we had to go in uniform. And then they did an inspection and, you know, they can mess with you a bit more in your personal time, whereas here, it's kind of your time, you don't go to class well that might just affect your grades, you don't go to class there, well you might be looking at NJPd or something like that, and then you know, having your pay garnished, and all that stuff. So definitely different in the consequences, yes.

Josh: Bit worse than here.

Rachel: Yes, yes for sure.

Vanessa: Just now you said NGP?

Rachel: The NJP?

Vanessa: NJP.

Rachel: So, in the military, they have the UCMJ, which is basically, their, kind of like their overall code of conduct, like if you, I don't know, if you get a DUI, there's certain consequences you get. It's the actual law for the military that you have to follow. It is a little bit different from the civilian world, because when you do join the military, you basically waive your rights, I know it sounds kind of harsh, but you kind of waive like, your freedoms that you have as a civilian. It makes sense because of the nature of the jobs within the military, but that's yeah. So NJP would be something where you could be busted down in rank, you could lose pay, you could be restricted to our room, and work and that's it. So they can definitely make it so you, you know, you might even have extra duties, so after work you have to go do extra stuff. So they can definitely control that type of stuff.

Josh: Sounds fun.

Rachel: I don't know if it's fun, its actually, and the other thing with it too, not only does it affect you right then, depending, you know, and they can set this up for like three months that your, your pay might get cut in half, you go down in rank, you can't leave the barracks and your job, and that would affect you, like that could follow you to where you're not able to reenlist if you wanted to. So now you're chances if you were wanting to be a career service member might get cut.

Josh: So, now that you've spent a couple years here at Mira Costa, do you know what you want to major in?

Rachel: So, I, actually at the end of the semester, I'll have my sociology associates, or associates in sociology. And I plan on transferring, to get the bachelor and hopefully masters in sociology. Specific job, I'm unsure at this point, I think once I get to the university level, get some more in depth experience with other professors in sociology, research stuff, other classes and internships, I'll kind of navigate a bit more, specifically to what I want to do with sociology, but in the genre of sociology.

Josh: So, do you know which college, which university you want to transfer to?

Rachel: So, UCSD and UC Berkeley, are the two that I'm applying for right now.

Josh: That's nice. Alright, so, what kind of job do you have now that you're out of the service?

Rachel: So, I still am somewhat connected with the service and fellow veterans. I work on campus at our veterans' education office. There we basically deal with all of the [paperwork that veterans need to complete in order to need to use their benefits here at the school. so we're basically like the middleman if you will, between the school and the VA. Since there are certain requirements for the student to adhere to in order to have the VA cover their classes and for the GI Bill to be used. We also have another one, we have a veteran's information center on campus, which is really great. They have our counseling center, which handles making education plans, making sure students are on a goal path and are taking the right classes. They also have a computer lab and they usually will have like the VFW and the VA, different representatives come in and kind of give information out to the veterans, for anything they might need, any kind of veteran, or activity or whatnot. So that's where I work right now which is rather nice, because it gets you to really understand the process of the GI Bill, it can be very confusing. The VA kind of like the military is very specific in what they require in order for things to be covered and all that. So, constantly working with students folders and seeing different random situations that come up, it's been a huge help for myself and making sure I'm doing what I need to, and also to help fellow veterans whether it's my friends that I used to work with, or new veterans who come into the school, then just give them kind of more a walkthrough of what they need to know so that they can be successful here at MiraCosta.

Josh: So, you mentioned, VA a few times, what is that?

Rachel: So, the VA is basically the veteran system within the US if you will. They handle, there's two different sides, they have the education side which does all GI Bills, and then they have the medical side which depending on when you got out of the service and stuff like that, you qualify through so many years of coverage through their health system and then also if you have any disability that you got while in, that you are covered through life through the VA. Here at the school, we only handle, obviously, the education, which isn't too bad once you kind of get used to it, but they're very, very particular in what they, what they require so it's very important for veterans or dependants using benefits to make sure they're following what is laid out for them, so that their benefits are just wasted or not given to them basically.

Josh: Okay. Do you have any tips for future student veterans?

Rachel: Yeah, there's definitely a couple in regards to transitioning from the military out into the civilian world or school, make sure to be planning ahead of time. They do require you to go to a transition seminar basically. It's a week long, while you're still in, you go for a week, and you dress up business attire. And they have representatives from schools, the VA, VFW, like all these different veterans benefits come in, they go over what you rate for when you get out, how to apply for things, but they do flood you with a ton of information that a lot of it you don't really remember, you do get pamphlets and stuff, but I would say for veterans going to that, make sure you take note, especially for things that are going to pertain to them specifically, and just start preparing as soon as possible, whether they're getting out to go to school, look up schools where they're going, find out you know, how much it's going to cost to move, if they're going to be an instate or out of

state regent, one of the big things with the VA, they do not cover out of state fees, so if a veteran goes to a college and they go back home and they're not considered an in-state resident there, the VA won't cover that fee, which for here at MiraCosta, if you're an out of state student, it's an additional two thousand dollars a year. SO you want to, the students definitely want to make sure to see if there might be some way for some veterans, depending on different criteria which they would want to talk to admissions about, they would be eligible for in-state, so definitely check that out, get that stuff taken care of ahead of time, start finding out what paperwork they need. When it comes to school specifically, a lot of times there's a lot of paperwork required, whether it's other transcripts from other schools the military, in state/out of state things, so definitely be working on that kind of stuff, working on trying to find places to live, if they're going back to school, maybe if they're really nervous about how they're going to do, maybe get some prep courses, or take some tutoring ahead of time just to get back to the level they need to. I know for me, if I hadn't come straight in after high school, I wouldn't have been able to do as well as I have now. When I was in high school, I just kind of messed around and didn't really do that well, as I am now. But I think the military helped as far as getting me discipline and you now, seeing what I really needed to do in life as opposed to when I was you know, seventeen, eighteen years old, so it definitely, definitely helps to get that. Save money if I haven't already mentioned that, definitely save money because when it comes to using the GI Bill, especially when you first go to use it, there might be a gap between where you actually get paid, so you might be looking at, for me I think I looked at a good two, three months of no payment, so if you're having to cover rent and bills and you are a full time student in the transition of being out, you are definitely going to need a lot of money saved up. Definitely take you now, pay attention to that when people say that. What's some other ones, definitely keep some kind of folder, something with the information you get from the transition seminar as well as contact information for different veterans groups, there are a ton of resources out there, whether it's on school campus, which our veterans service is great, if there's an emergency loan needed or someone to contact about housing or whatever, we have those resources, we also, we don't specifically have, we usually have the contacts for other organizations that can help, so definitely you know, keep those things on you, cause you never know you might not need it right now, later on you might, I know for me personally there's a coupe I had to use and I know a few of my friends who being friends as well, never thought they'd be in that situation, but ended up homeless and so they needed some of those different opportunities that are out there to get them back up on their feet. So that would probably be some of the big ones. I think once attending school, especially here at MiraCosta, take advantage of what the school offers, the school is great as far as offering tutoring, they have the writing center, the math center, the professors are really great as far as making sure you know, you get your study time in, they have books on loan here, they have a lot of great resources to help you succeed so if you want to you know, you have to put a little effort in, at least in finding these things and just take advantage of them because they're there for that very reason.

Josh: So, it sounded like you put some emphasis in high school, so, what's the difference between you back then and you now?

Rachel: When I was in high school, I didn't really know what I wanted to be, for a while, I was very, very much obsessed for lack of better terms, with the military, I probably

watched saving private Ryan one too many times or something. But I was really into that, really into American history and I thought, that's what I'm going to do. In fact my goal in high school, was to become president as funny as that is, so I had this whole idea of enlisting, and then going to college and becoming an officer and you know, doing all that. Well, for the military, you don't need a college degree to enlist, so when I was in high school, I was really dead set on going into the military. I didn't do the best in classes, I wasn't as disciplined, I had a lot of personal family things going on which really affected me, to where I was too stressed out, too focused on that stuff than I was on school. I didn't really have anyone at home as parents anyway being like hey you need to make sure you're doing this and take the SAT and this and get ready for school. 32:07
32:00-48:56

Rachel: taking the SAT and this and getting ready for school so I didn't really I mean you would hear about it in school but it didn't really hit and then when I joined the military which I did two years after high school then I started to see ok yeah there is definitely more to that I really need to get focused on that and look at it in a more serious manner plus I didn't have the family issues going on because now I was on my own so I think that really helps now with being here I'm on my own so I don't have any of the you know family drama going on and I've been in the real world if you will so I see how important it is to do well at school and get the degrees and you know excel in that way so you can get a good job and you don't have to struggle with bills and this and that because I've seen where some people unfortunately end up by not going to school just kind of...a couple of people I know that got out didn't go back to school just kind of hanging around not really doing the best so I think as opposed to high school when it's everything you hear in one ear and out the other you know ok teachers listen to whatever they're saying it's like whatever I don't care where as now it's more like ok no this is serious. Definitely a big difference to me anyway between the two I think if I went straight to college out of high school I would've probably flunked out I probably wouldn't have done that well at all I definitely appreciate that I took a break and did something different and then came back to school.

Josh: I actually forgot to ask this earlier but you said that your deployments were six months each how long did you end up actually serving?

Rachel: so I was actually there a total of five years. For about a year...yeah pretty much from February through November I was in training which was the boot camp and the combat training and the schoolhouse and then from that December until January of 2015 I was active duty where I was actually in the fleet. So a total of five years.

Vanessa: so seeing that difference in you from back then to now you think that's because you were in the Marine Corps? Or because you got older and matured a little?

Rachel: I think it's both I think the marine corps definitely teaches some very valuable lessons and you have to put things into action so with the whole discipline and real world situations and you're being paid and you're doing things on your own and those kind of things that really helps to my situation now. Now I'm just being an adult experiencing things in life. Between the Marine Corps and my time out of the Marine Corps has also

helped a lot with class. I think experience plays a big role just in general with life. Because you can pull from different experiences and memories and kind of oh you know well I've seen it this way. Well that way didn't really work so when we're working on this project I've seen it this way let's try it instead of oh well I have no idea, you can kind of build on things from experience and the same thing with research is one you know in one of my history classes or political science classes because I've had some more experience in things I can be more I can be a better part of the conversation, because I can pull from things I understand or know places that I can go and research that I maybe wouldn't have known if I didn't have any experience prior to school and prior to that one professor so I think the mix of both has helped with schooling a lot.

Vanessa: so why did you choose the Marine Corps as compared to all the other militaries?

Rachel: so when I was considering where I wanted to go like which branch I was pretty much dead set on either the army or the Marine Corps because I of course wanted to go into one of the tougher ones which I slightly ate my words later on. However I am very proud I went to the marine corps I'm very happy with that decision and the marine corps out of the two definitely was you know...it's the few the proud you know where the marine corps I mean c'mon but I'm happy I went with that choice. I did just to be sure I went to the recruiters of all the branches except for coast guard because they weren't even around and I talked with the recruiters because I wanted to do you know good enough research hear what they all do their all a little bit different they have different standards different types of jobs in some cases and so I went to each different branch and I kind of got a feel for the branch basically talked to the recruiter and hands down the marine recruiter was the best he was awesome he was not really like a car salesman like some of the others he was pretty honest with me which sometimes recruiters are not so I kind of lucked out there but yeah that kind of solidified my decision once I met with him and was like oh yeah this is the path I felt right and man I am so glad I joined because if I didn't I probably wouldn't be here at school right now the opportunities the the marine corps offers between the job training the skill set the discipline the maturity that you gain it's priceless literally and it got me out of Florida so if I didn't I highly doubt I would be out here in California right now so I am - which I love so much more than Florida - but don't let my friends in Florida know but yeah it's hands down the best thing and schooling is huge that's why veterans should really take advantage of using their benefits not waste the benefits not just use it just for cash which unfortunately we do but it is meant to transition you from your job that you were trained in in the military which can be a career that you retire from its supposed to keep you. You know able to afford living like you were in the military but get the next training so you can be another productive member of society instead of just dump you on the street corner basically so I would definitely suggest for veterans to use their benefits definitely because nowadays you need at least a bachelors so you might as well go and get it covered so especially if you earned it as well.

Vanessa: so going back to your job in the military and with your intelligence specialist and the writing and the things you did what's the similarities to your writing style here in

school?

Rachel: I would say similar in the fact that I am much more in depth than I once was like in high school where again I didn't have the greatest training with it and being an intelligence specialist having to create intelligence reports and briefings you have to be very specific you have to give all the details you have to know your stuff if you're doing a presentation for instance you have like 10% on the slide and the rest you have to be able to answer on and you're giving real real stuff. In my case Rachel: in my case to pile it so if they ask questions I needed to be on my toes prepared two steps ahead of them so I could be prepared for any question so I use that now with my current papers in school so instead of just putting the bare minimums or just kind of hitting on points I really dive into them I give or get more research for it use more sources

Josh: a lot more detail

Rachel: a lot more details make sure their more credible sources and if it's a somewhat credible source I'll have another source to back it up because that was something I definitely learned when I was in you know when you're talking about an intelligence report it's not the same as oh I'm just turning in a history project like if you mess up on a report on an actual briefing who knows what kind of consequences that could have so I take that seriousness and that in depth teaching and use it towards my papers now research for one I kind of see this in my classes like if we have to talk in groups or talking with other people getting things ready for you know their different classes definitely much more detail with that whether it's using the library using the online their databases like I said before not Wikipedia just definitely getting a well-rounded platform if you will whatever of information I'm trying to talk about which has really helped because I'm kind of a documentary nerd so being a sociologist major that helps so I usually you know different books and documentaries we do in class I used those for other research and build on it much in the same that our intelligence reports we do you know an operation would happen that would happen and then another would just build on whatever the situation is going on so that definitely has helped and then for instance for some of the history classes or the political science classes when you gave to talk about current events one thing I learned with doing my job is that the news is not always correct wh8ich big surprise to some people maybe but they usually have incorrect sources or just totally way off so from knowing that from experience id go into things with more of a skeptical mind and really dive in to try and see how much truth there is to things what other things I can back it up with and then I'll take that into presentations so I make sure you know whatever I'm presenting is accurate to the best of my ability that I'm paying attention to those details whether it's you know spellchecking you know grammar stuff spelling which I think I just mentioned capitalization all that kind of stuff or the layouts of stuff or the slides of course that was one of the big things they did in my job so which actually when we were in the school house in the Marine Corps that's basically the biggest thing they hound you on they have you constantly making briefs and we would just get slayed by the not the professors but by the instructors who would just I mean obliterate you when you're putting your you know tell you how crappy they were so I've gotten very

much you know I'm more of a oh I don't know what the term would be but I'm very very much I pay attention to detail a lot especially when it comes to presentations which sometimes can be a little annoying because I'll be in a class and the professor will have something up and in my head I'll be critiquing slide as opposed to paying attention

Josh: So you're a little OCD about it?

Rachel: yes yeah I'm definitely OCD and definitely an attention to detail is which helps and with my job again that helps because I'm going through hundreds of veterans paperwork and if one thing is not correctly filled out and we send it to the VA and it'll be sent back so it's helped a lot because both in school making sure my projects and my papers are to what they need to be as well as the job making sure everyone's paperwork is good so they're not you know having a backlog with the VA so it's definitely helped a lot and the experience I'd like to think that when I share in class and I'm talking with other students and kind of helping them I can show them more of a real world as opposed to a teacher just saying to read this chapter or find the quickest google thing I find and just put something together so see that it can really bridge into something else whether it's your major specifically or a future career and whatnot so that's definitely helped I think that I kind of get into my moods when it's time to write a paper I'll be honest sometimes I'm a big procrastinator but I'm the kind of person where when I'm ready to work on a paper I just sit down and I just get on it and I'm in the mode which I think is kind of how I used to do it in the marine core which is why I'm probably like that now especially because you would have to wait for certain deadlines to come up and wait for things to be released in order to use them and being on like a time crunch when I was deployed and you have 12 hours to create a brief and to use this other stuff it definitely I think it just kind of conditioned me to be that way but I would like to think that the papers that I'm pumping out are pretty good so as well as slide shows which I like to think of as my babies

Vanessa: so the ways they taught you how to make reports in the military did it help you more now than the way you got taught in high school?

Rachel: I think so I do remember one English teacher specifically in high school who her lessons I have defiantly taken with me now which she kind of was similar to how my instructors were at the school house she would have us write a paper and then have us take our own red pen and go through and everything that was wrong and redo everything until it was right and it was such a pain in the ass and I hated it but it has made me so much better now I don't do those I know automatically that and symbolism she taught us symbolism, like I can't watch a movie without being like oh why are they taping from the window but it helps it helps because it's definitely something I do a lot now in college and the professor again not the professor but the instructors in the schoolhouse we didn't have I mean we did some reports but the main thing they would grade us on were our tests and make sure our knowledge was good and then also how our slides looked and how we presented which that was really nerve wracking because you get up in front of the class and then the instructors would come in and you'd be in the middle of presenting and they'd be like stop no you suck, stop don't say that get that out of there what is that

and your just all like you know all uuuh whhhaaa where's the clicker again I don't even uuuh where are we and so you just get thrown off but their just training you like who can't test you know to getting it. Now till now I never was wow I did such a good job I never was you know up straight up thrown under the bus or something but I also had the those in charge and you would double check them before I would go out and present just to make sure everyone because if you did something wrong whoever's in charge of you is held accountable they don't want the shop to look bad understandably. But it definitely which is nice you know I do appreciate once I was in fully and giving again these professional briefs you know in my case to compile it they all had their bachelors at least some of them a masters and they were smart people they were like engineers and stuff and so for me I think I was lucky because I was around not to say their smarter they were just more educated than the enlists who come straight in out of high school so a lot of them would give really good feedback and I kind of feel that having those conversations more times like the briefing things going on I think that definitely helped and it allowed me to have communication skills not only in a presentation manner but in a work manner you know talking with other professionals and you're sharing a ideas and critiques and this and that so that helped a lot for sure.

Josh: a bit off topic here but is this fleet is that like a group you're in?

Rachel: so the fleet is the marine corps the non-training so when you get out you pick the fleet is what they call it and so then you go to your different units ground side or air side with the helicopters so much love there I must say my heart is still there for sure.